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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Tenth
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To the Members and Adherents of The Cathedral:

In presenting this Souvenir Booklet to you on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Cathedral, it is with a deep sense of the inadequacy of my powers to fulfill the task as one would wish it to be done. I thought it a time when the scattered fragments of the history of St. John's should be gathered together and preserved in more permanent form. No doubt as time goes on there will be found much material that should go into such a story. If any of you know or find such material, please send it to the Dean or other official that it may be added some other time to make a more complete account of the work of the Cathedral.

We are very deeply grateful to the management of *The Star-Phoenix* for the loan of nearly all the cuts that appear in this booklet. It is one more of the large number of kind things our daily paper is constantly doing for the benefit of this and every Church in the city.

At the present time the Cathedral is very much handicapped by the heavy debt. One feels it more keenly when we see the need of more adequate room for the many activities of the parish. The old Parish Hall is far from fulfilling the requirements of a modern, almost "down-town" work. A pipe organ is very much needed to aid in the services of so large a building and the Cathedral itself should be completed.

The upkeep of our present scattered buildings is proportionately too large for the accomodation provided. Our income should be larger but would be all that is required were we living in normal times. We may be justly proud of the loyalty of our people. At the present those who have employment have to strain to the utmost to make up for the large number who have no work. The expenses of the parish have been cut to a minimum. With gratefulness for what others have done in the past, let us go forward to the brighter day, and by our sacrifices, leave a better St. John's for those who shall worship here in the years to come.

Your faithful friend,

W. L. Armitage

Dean of the Cathedral.

*To the Members of St. John's Cathedral and All Other Readers
Of This Booklet:*

The purpose of this Souvenir Booklet is to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of St. John's as a Cathedral. It is not as complete as a history of our Church as we had hoped to make it, but we trust it will prove interesting and give some idea of the pioneer work of the Church in Saskatoon, showing its rapid growth in the past thirty-three years.

You will notice the many friends we number among the leading business and professional men of the city. To these who by their advertisements have made this booklet possible, we extend our hearty and sincere thanks.

We trust their *Ads* may prove business-builders, and we kindly request our people and all other readers of this booklet to patronize them. By so doing you will confer a favour on

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

A Word of Congratulation from the Bishop

It will be a matter of satisfaction not only to the members of the Cathedral but to all the Churchmen in the Diocese, that the Dean has been able to compile this brochure regarding St. John's. There is so much information in it that would be likely lost that its value will increase with the passing years. It takes its place in the making of history, for history is the recording of events and circumstances and this is the record of the growth of the Church of England in our City and district.

A word of congratulation to the congregation I should like to express in this foreword for the way in which they have continued in spite of the difficulties and obstacles which seemed almost insurmountable. This booklet gives the story of the congregation of this Cathedral; how they have faced their obstacles courageously in the past and present and how they have held to their vision of a worthy Church and have done their best to realize it.

A word of congratulation also to the Dean I desire to give. This year marks a special anniversary for him. Next month he will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his ordination by the Lord Bishop of Huron, that saintly man, the Right Reverend Maurice Scollard Baldwin, remembered by many for his devotion and eloquence. The Dean's years of ministry are most active. As a young man he began as curate of the Memorial Church, London, Ontario, in charge of All Saints' Mission, where he was responsible for the building of a Sunday School. Afterwards he went to Peterborough as curate of the old ivy-clad St. John's Church, which is such a beauty spot of the City. There he fostered the growth of a mission which under his guidance became a rectory, and he the first rector. Then at Picton he stimulated the congregation of St. Mary Magdalene's Church in their building of an entirely new structure in the town replacing the old building on the hill. He next went to St. Mark's Church, in Parkdale, Toronto, where he organized a splendid men's work and instigated and carried through the building of a three-story parish hall and later on a rectory and the installation of a pipe-organ. At the earnest solicitation of St. James' congregation, London, Ontario, he became their rector in 1918. Again he showed himself the builder, by stimulating the remodelling of the school and the building of a two-story parish hall. With this enviable record of work as a parish priest in 1926 he came to St. John's Cathedral, where ever since, Mrs. Armitage and he have given constant and unremitting care and service on behalf of the work. He has served the Church as a member of the General Synod for several years and is a member of the Synod of the Province of Rupert's Land.

And so, on behalf of the members of the Cathedral and the Diocese it gives me great pleasure to offer the Dean our felicitations on his Anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

W. T. SASKATOON



RIGHT REVEREND W. T. HALLAM, M.A., D.D.
Lord Bishop of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



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(There are other members to be appointed by the Bishop.)



"Tall Oaks From Little Acorns Grow"

The above quotation headed a valuable account of early days in St. John's Church written by Miss Mary Mackay, now of Prince Albert, whose father was one time an incumbent of St. John's. It is from such sources the present history of St. John's has been collected, but it is impossible to give credit to all those to whom we are indebted for the information we hope to incorporate in this little booklet. It is because of the scattered nature of the accounts of the early days in our church that the present work has been undertaken, and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of St. John's as a Cathedral, seemed an opportune time to gather these fragments and put them into more permanent form. Of course we do not presume that what has been collected in this booklet tells all that could be told about our work or that credit has been given to the many excellent workers whose devotion helped

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to make possible the Cathedral of to-day. For any lack of credit given or for the omission of any important items in this account we cannot hold our selves responsible; the information was not available to us. For all omissions or any other discrepancies we beg the indulgence of our readers.

Away back in 1887, when there was not a house or a tree on the west side of the River Saskatchewan where now is the City of Saskatoon with a total population of about 45,000, services of the Church of England were held in the little school house which stood on the site of the present Victoria School, Broadway, Nutana. This building is now in the grounds of the University of Saskatchewan, having been taken down most carefully and removed



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to its present position to be preserved as a memorial, it having been the first educational institution of Saskatoon. We are indebted to the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire for this splendid work. The building is now used to store the archives of the University.

In this little building, for seven summers services were conducted by Lay Readers and travelling missionaries who were supported by the Diocesan Missionary fund. Incidentally we might say that we who now reap the benefit of such Missionary giving ought to be very generous towards similar work now undertaken by the Diocese in other places, even more promising than Saskatoon appeared in those days.

The first Missionary appointed by the Anglican Church to the pastoral charge of Saskatoon was the late Rev. Canon E. K. Matheson R.D. who was then incumbent of Battleford. Though residing ninety miles away, Canon Matheson started regular services here in the winter of 1890-91. It is very fitting that we still retain connection with the Mother Parish in that the Rector of Battleford, Rev. Canon A. E. Greenhalgh, is a Canon of the Cathedral. In 1894, 1895 and 1896 the incumbent of Duck Lake over sixty miles to the north, drove over the trails to give services and administer the Sacraments. These services were conducted in a frame structure known as the "Band Hall". For some six years following, only occasional services were held. Then in the autumn of 1901 or the spring of 1902 the people began to consider the time had come when they should have regular services and a resident minister. But Miss Mary MacKay of Prince Albert wrote in 1921 a short sketch of this period so I will let her tell this part of the story.

EARLY DAYS IN ST. JOHN'S

About 1902, Saskatoon was still in its infancy, consisting principally of a small railway station, a few detached buildings between the station and the river and one straggling unpaved street with the N. W. M. P. Barracks at one end, and at the other the tiny Post Office where the mails, only four per week by train, were sorted in half an hour, while one sat on the stairs near the improvised wicket and waited one's turn.

At that time, the small band of Anglicans resident in Saskatoon had no minister nor place of worship of their own, though the Rev. S. Mahood of Rosthern, conducted an occasional service for them in the board structure known as the "Band Hall". About the fall of 1901 or spring of 1902, it was considered that the time had come to have a resident minister and church building, and largely through the action of the late Const. J. Clisby, then in charge of the N. W. M. P. Barracks, a subscription list was opened and a sufficient sum collected by Mr. Clisby in a few hours, to warrant the creation of a parish, although eight families all told, including two or three single persons, formed the entire congregation. Several names were suggested for the new parish; the writer submitted "St. John's" in memory of the old cathedral in Winnipeg of that name, and so St. John's parish came into existence with Rev. W. E. Edmunds from St. John's College, Winnipeg, as its first incumbent. The first meeting of parishoners to elect a vestry was held in the small office in Mr. A. E. Young's furniture store. To the best of the writer's recollection, among those present were Rev. Edmunds, Mr. and Mrs. J. Clisby, Mr. A. E. Young, the writer, and probably Mr. W. J. Bell, Mr. A. H. Clark, Mr. Morrice and Mr. F. McManus. At the risk of being considered personal, it may be mentioned that even at that time Saskatoon showed its progressive spirit by this meeting suggesting the writer as its first vestry clerk. Unfortunately, owing to other duties, she had to decline the honor. Now, behold a parish, a minister, *but* no church; so, either at the

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fair or on some sports day, the ladies of the congregation had a small tent about the site of the present St. John's Church, and raised sufficient funds by the sale of ice cream, etc. to purchase ground on which to erect a church building. At that time one could get a good lot for about \$40.00. All the ice cream was made by the ladies—Mrs. Clisby made gallons of it—and if I remember rightly, the late Mr. S. A. Clark, first hardware merchant in Saskatoon and a loyal churchman and citizen, made all the lemonade. Every single member of the wee congregation worked. Mr. and Mrs. W.A.H. a Court from Dundurn assisted and several members from the other congregations also kindly helped. About the fall of 1902, the church building was begun, put up largely, I believe, by voluntary labour. Most of the present residents of Saskatoon know the site of the first St. John's, at that time "Away out of the village" and in a thicket of wolf willow, etc. on Third Avenue. (It was where the Travellers' Block now stands.) Going to church was not very easy in those days, especially in inclement weather. The little church was



ORIGINAL ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

ready for use, either about Christmas Day, 1902, or early in 1903; at any rate it was standing and had been in use for some time when the Barr Colonists came out in May, 1903. In the interim before its completion, services were held in the "Band Hall", the organ being represented by an extremely ancient piano so badly out of tune that it was usually dispensed with altogether. St. John's had a good choir to lead the very hearty singing; among the first members being Mrs. H. Acheson, now of Penticton, B. C., Miss M. Stephenson, now Mrs. A. H. Clark, Mr. A. H. Clark, Miss A. Clark, Mr. T. Sales, now of Langham, Mr. A. E. Cousins (now Rev. of Bristol, England). The writer had the honor of being the first organist, so naturally attended all the services, among them being the double wedding of two bright-faced English girls who had come all the long way to meet their settler fiancés. They got *both* Wedding Marches with extra vigor. A different occasion was the funeral of the first Barr Colonist to lay a "little bit of England" in Canadian earth, when the coffin and party arrived at the church in "Bain"

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waggon. The Sunday after the arrival of the Barr Colonists, the services were held in one of their large tents, St. John's being inadequate for the seating of some hundreds, and Rev. G. E. Lloyd, afterwards Bishop of the Diocese, preached an admirable sermon to a crowded, if somewhat homesick, congregation. He also preached the following Sunday evening in St. John's from the text "*There shall be no more sea*".

As is well known, the masculine portion of the population is largely in the majority in Saskatchewan, and in the early days of St. John's it was no unusual thing for the organist and sometimes one little girl to be the only females in a congregation packed to the door. It is presumed, of course, that Saskatoon men are still "keeping on" in this respect.

It was not long before the little church proved too small to contain the worshippers (those were the good old days), and the original edifice was enlarged to the extent of the nave forming the new chancel, a much larger nave being built and the original chancel being transformed into the porch. It is probable that other extensions were made later, but as the writer left Saskatoon in the early part of 1907, the later residents are probably more conversant with the after history of the first Anglican church building in Saskatoon. Contrasting the present stately edifice with the first small structure, the phenomenal growth of St. John's Church is most interesting.

I may add that about 1906, the familiar chime of bells was installed and later dedicated. At that time, it was understood that there was only one other chime in Canada. Among the names of benefactors of St. John's Church, one remembers the name of the late Mrs. Russell Wilson in connection with these bells.

There are probably many inaccuracies in this fragmentary sketch as regards dates, and possibly names of those who were of great assistance in church work at the first, have been omitted (I am open to correction in these particulars); but these few notes have been made more in remembrance of the association with the small beginning with which one was privileged to be able to assist, and with a pleasant recollection of the good-fellowship existing among the members of the Church of the "Apostle of Brotherly Love".

—*Mary Mackay.*

From conversations with some "old timers" I would gather that one or two informal meetings of men interested in organizing the Church people of that day into a congregation were held in the rear of Mr. J. F. Johnston's Drug Store, Second Avenue, where "Golf's Chocolate shop" now stands. Then followed the regular vestry meetings. It is interesting—I nearly said characteristic—to note that at the first Vestry meeting held 30th, June 1902, at the residence of Mr. S. A. Clark, Vestry Clerk, the resolutions to secure a site for the proposed church read:—(1) "Moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Garrison, that the site for the new church be purchased and paid for in cash—the price being forty (40) dollars, payment in full for lots 33, 34 and 35 in block 156. Carried. And (2) Moved by Mr. Edmunds, seconded by Mr. Clark, that the ladies be asked to devote the money they have in hand to the purchase of the aforesaid site for the new church. Carried."

It was ever thus. The Church has always been richly blessed by the devoted services of her women. I understand that the Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's, the largest contributors in this Diocese to missionary work, was organized by Miss Mackay who was their first president. And ever since the women have been prominent in the many good works the Church has undertaken. The ladies paid for the first site owned by the Church of England in Saskatoon, and the property was duly transferred on the 25th of

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August, 1902. The annual income of the Church was reported by the treasurer to be about \$414.20.

At a meeting of the Vestry in September, it was decided to proceed with the building of the Chancel which was to cost about \$800. The sketch and plans were prepared by Mr. S.A. Clark. This building therefore was the first "St. John's" and was dedicated on the 18th of January, 1903, by the Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary, the late Bishop Pinkham, who also inducted the Rev. W. E. Edmunds as the first incumbent of the parish. At the Vestry meeting on 3rd of March, 1903, Rev. Mr. Edmunds reported a grant of £33.13.4 from the S. P. C. K. in England towards the expenses of building and furnishing the new Church. At the Easter Congregational meeting 1903, a resolution was passed expressing appreciation of the services of Rev. Mr. Edmunds. The minimum amount of the clerical stipend was fixed at \$300.00. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Mackay for her valuable services as organist and choir leader. Rev. Mr. Edmunds resigned at Easter, 1904. Mr. D. B. Chalk was the first caretaker of the church and his services were much appreciated.



MR. W. J. BELL

*One of the early members and
one of the first Bishop's Wardens*

As I have asked Mr. Fred Hayes to give us an extended account of the founding and work of the choir I shall not need to refer to that part of our work again in detail.

Rev. Mr. Edmunds, not having heard from the Bishop, recommended Rev. Mr. Wolf of Glenboro as his successor. The Vestry agreed to this pending an appointment by the Bishop, and arranged for a reception to be given for Mr. Wolf. This was in April; but on June 6th, 1904, there is a resolution in the minutes of the Vestry welcoming Mr. A. Fraser and expressing appreciation of his services.

During the summer of 1904 it was decided to enlarge the Church. On



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tenders being called it was thought to be too expensive to build a brick building so it was agreed that tenders for a frame structure be called for. During the summer and autumn of 1904 the names of A. Fraser and D. T. Davies appear alternately as chairman of the Vestry meetings. But at the meeting of 6th February 1905, a letter from the C. and C. C. S. of England offering £200 to pay the stipend of Mr. Davies would show that he had now become the incumbent.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bell gave the font used in the old Church in memory of their little boy.

Rev. Mr. Davies resigned on 19th September, 1905, greatly to the regret of the whole congregation. After a short incumbency by Rev. C. H. Coles Mr. B. W. Pullinger had charge of the services. Then the Vestry invited Rev. D. T. Davies to return from England sending money to him to pay his travelling expenses, after the Annual Meeting at Easter 1906.



REV. CANON E. B. SMITH, L.TH.
Rector 1907-1923

In June 1906, Rev. Mr. Davies having returned to Saskatoon, the building of a suitable Rectory was undertaken at a cost of \$2300.00. The tower was added to the Church in this year. In it were placed a chime of tubular bells, the bequest of the late Mrs. Russell Wilson. These are the bells that call us to service to this day. They were rung for the first time on the 5th of February, 1907. Rev. Mr. Davies resigned in June 1907 and Rev. H. J. Likeman assisted by Mr. W. J. Bell and Mr. S. A. Clark, conducted services till the end of September.

In the summer of 1906, a donation from the Old Country made it possible to establish a mission church on the west side of the C. N. R. tracks. This building was dedicated to St. George and was known as St. George's Mission. At first this Mission was in charge of a catechist, Mr. J. B. Gibson, but in May 1907, Mr. Gibson was transferred to Merrill, and was succeeded in St. George's by another catechist, Mr. C. Barnes, who was succeeded in the spring of 1908 by Mr. A. T. Horne.



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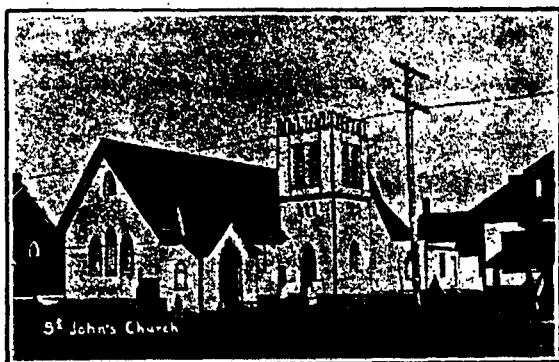
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In October 1906 it was decided to establish a new Church on the "Ashworth-Holmes Hill", in the north-west portion of the city. Mr. John Ashworth donated the triangular lot on which Christ Church now stands. Plans were drawn for a very beautiful stone structure and the basement was built and roofed over in 1907. This is Christ Church as we see it to-day. While these building operations were going on, a frame building was put up and services were conducted in it by Rev. A. J. Oakley, B. A., who came from Oakland, England, with sixty catechists brought out by Archdeacon (afterwards Bishop) Lloyd. Mr. Oakley was the first incumbent of Christ Church.

The Diocesan authorities decided in the summer of 1907 that a new Church was required on the south side of the river. With very little delay a small but very neat and suitable building was an accomplished fact.

A visit from a very generous English gentleman, Mr. George Winch, of Chatham England, resulted in a gift of two lots where St. James' Church now stands, and to it the little church was moved in 1908. Rev. Mr. Likeman became the first incumbent. In the autumn of 1908 a Mission Church was built in Sutherland and is now known as St. Mathew's Church. What is now St. Mark's Mission Church in North Park was begun in 1913. It is said that the original building was Canon Smith's stable. It was rebuilt and now there is a small but comfortable building with a devoted band of workers. I think it worth while to mention the beginning of the other Churches, because they were undertaken by those who had been worshippers in St. John's.



OLD CHURCH, COMPLETED 1909
Now the Parish Hall

On the first Sunday in October 1907, Rev. Ernest B. Smith, formerly of Carberry, Manitoba, was inducted as Rector of St. John's and took up his residence in the new Rectory. At the beginning of this year the parish became self-supporting, being the second parish in the diocese to become independent of assistance. The first church to support itself was St. Alban's in Prince Albert. At this time also, the choir was enrobed, being the first surpliced choir in the diocese. The organizations in St. John's at that time, beside the choir, were a Sunday School, Woman's Auxiliary, Brotherhood of St. Andrew—senior and junior—and the Anglican Young People's Association. The work began to grow rapidly as the population increased. The Hall was increased to double its former size and plans were laid to further enlarge the Church. The last addition to the old Church was made in 1909.

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All the buildings—Church, Hall and Rectory—were moved to the present site on Spadina Crescent in 1912. When the new Church was opened in 1917, the above building became the Parish Hall and the old Hall was sold to the Great War Veterans.

Under the faithful ministry of Canon and Mrs. Smith the work of St. John's enlarged rapidly and on the 14th November 1910 the Vestry recommended the purchase of a new site for the Church at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Twenty-fourth Street. This property had been acquired by Messrs. W. J. Bell and A. H. Hanson for some \$12,500.00 and held for a time for the Church. The Third Avenue site had been sold to the Saskatoon Construction Company for \$40,000.00. As property values were soaring in those days, and the present valuable and choice site on Spadina Crescent was



LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE
By the Duke of Connaught, September 1912

offered to the congregation by Messrs. Bell and Hanson in exchange for the Fourth Avenue property, the offer was readily accepted. This property was then valued at \$19,000.00, the difference, about \$7,000.00, being absorbed by Messrs. Bell and Hanson, in addition to handsome subscriptions to the Building Fund. In a short time we note that the value put upon it was \$80,000, as based on what the Presbyterians had paid for their lot half a block away.

Unfortunately the minutes of the meetings of the Vestry and Congregation between the 14th of November 1911 and the 17th of April 1912 have disappeared. This latter meeting was the Annual Congregational Meeting at Easter. At the adjourned meeting on the 6th of May, 1912, the tender of Messrs. Archibald and Co. for the erection of a New Church for \$103,000.00 was accepted. The architects were Messrs. Thompson, Daniels and Colthurst. The original building committee consisted of Messrs. A. H. Hanson, W. J. Bell, W. P. Kirkpatrick and the Rector, Rev. Canon E. B. Smith. To these were added Messrs. P. MacKenzie, Judge A. C. McLorg and Hugh Aird.

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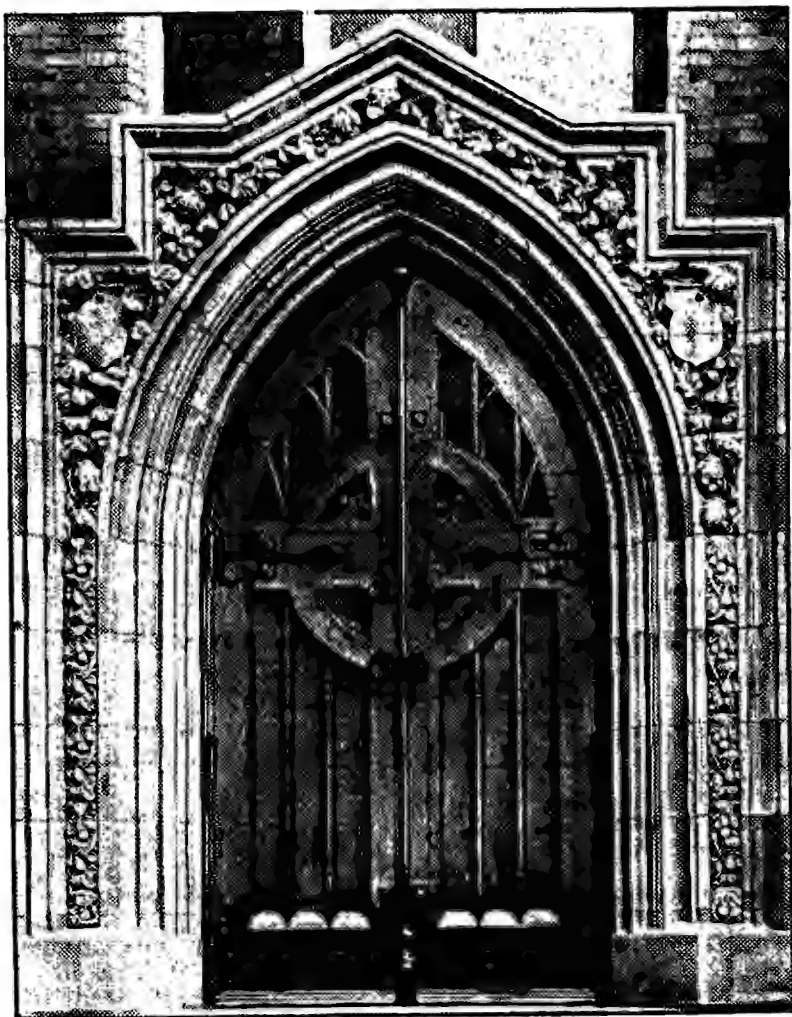
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The foundation stone was laid on the 2nd September 1912 by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and Strathern, K.G., K.P., etc., Governor General of Canada. The stone was executed by Doulton and Co., England. In it were placed a copy of the Holy Bible, Book of Common Prayer, historical sketch of St. John's Church and Parish, list of Church Officers, Programme of the Laying of the Foundation-stone, coins of the realm of current date, copy of land deed, copies of the local papers, the Saskatoon Phoenix, the Daily Star



One of the main entrances to the Cathedral

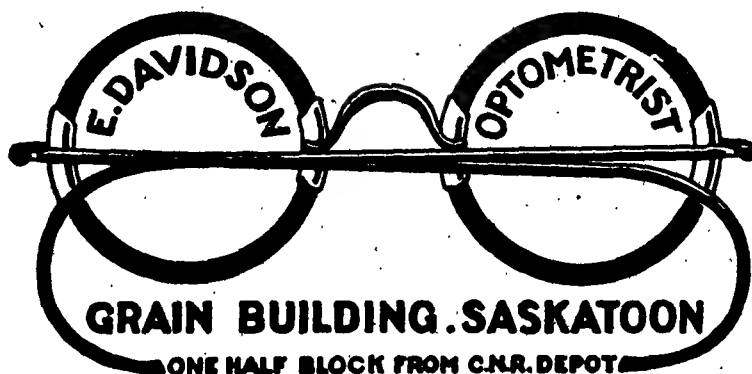
and the Saturday Press; the Saskatchewan Diocesan Magazine, the first Annual Report of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Saskatchewan, containing a photograph of the wife of the Bishop of the Diocese, Mrs. Newnham, founder of the organization in Saskatchewan and for six years its honored president; photographs of the Rt. Rev. J. A. Newnham, D.D., Lord

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The Cathedral building is a monument of architectural beauty. It has a seating accommodation of eleven hundred. The exterior is of Redcliffe brick, made in Alberta; the interior of buff brick from Manitoba, the base of rough-faced granite from Saskatchewan, while all ornament and tracery is of buff terra-cotta made by Doulton and Co. of England. The roof is of asbestos slate shingle of light grey color.

The building, situated on Spadina Crescent between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Streets, faces the Saskatchewan river. It is cruciform in arrangement with apical transepts, chancel and baptistry. The rood-screen, pulpit, lectern, altar and reredos, together with the font, are of white Carrara terra cotta in a dull glaze. Steelwork is used throughout the tower and spire and in the roof trusses. Curtain wall construction is used in the spire, which is 145 feet high, while the foundation of this portion is of reinforced



J. A. NEWNHAM, D.D.
Third Bishop of Saskatchewan

concrete. A pleasing feature to note is, that in the composition of the Cathedral, the three Prairie Provinces are represented:- in the foundation, granite from Saskatchewan, the exterior brick from Alberta, the interior brick from Manitoba, while permeating the entire structure is the English product, the terra cotta made by Doulton and Co. It is estimated there are fifty to fifty-five thousand pieces of terra cotta in the Cathedral and ready for the Rectory. What lumber was used in the floor, roof, etc. came from British Columbia. Perhaps this all predicts the time when Saskatoon will be the See City of a new Ecclesiastical Province with our Bishop, the Metropolitan.

The Church property comprises nearly two acres on which, in addition to the Cathedral, there is the Parish Hall (the old Church), the old Rectory,

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and the cottage occupied by the Verger. The central property comprises five very fine tennis courts.



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Fourth Bishop of Saskatchewan

At a special meeting of the Building Committee 7th May 1912, tenders for the building of a new Rectory were considered. As the tenders ranged from \$21,000.00 to \$24,800.00, exceeding the amount considered available for this purpose, the erection of the Rectory was deferred. The plans called for a palatial building and was to be trimmed with terra-cotta similar to the Cathedral itself, made by Messrs. Doulton and Co. of England. This terra-cotta trim for the Rectory is still stored in the crypt of the Cathedral.

In July, 1912, consideration was given to the purchase of an organ but because of the lack of funds an organ was not put in and the congregation has had to get on with the small organ at present in use.

In 1913, just before the building was completed, the great "boom" in real estate and business generally declined. Subscriptions were not coming in and the work was stopped. Money was borrowed to enclose the building with roof and windows and thus preserve what had been completed. The debt then contracted, though re-adjusted afterwards, has been a very heavy burden on the congregation ever since. Then came the Great War. Two hundred and fifty-seven men of St. John's enlisted for service. Thirty-seven were killed overseas. The building stood unoccupied until 1917. On Sunday 7th October it was opened for services. There was a celebration of Holy Communion at 8 a.m., and at 11 a.m. the Ven. Archdeacon Dewdney (now Bishop of Keewatin) gave an address. The service of dedication, conducted by Rev. Dr. J. N. Carpenter, Principal of Emmanuel College, was followed by a sermon by Rev. Canon E. B. Smith, the Rector. It was the tenth anniversary of his induction as Rector and must have been a proud day for him who had laboured so hard and so faithfully to bring the work to such a high



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pitch of efficiency. There was another celebration of the Holy Communion in which Rev. S. J. Andrews of Humboldt and Rev. Mr. Harding of Vermillion assisted. At four o'clock the sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered and at seven o'clock Archdeacon Dewdney preached. Bishop Newnham was attending the Annual Meeting of the M. S. C. C. in Ottawa and could not be present at the dedicatory services.

Canon Smith was rector of St. John's for sixteen years and has left a lasting memorial of his devotion both in the splendid property occupied by the Church and in the lives of hundreds of Church of England people and other citizens of Saskatoon. He accepted the Rectorship of St. Paul's Church, Bellingham, Wash., U. S. A. in September 1923.

The Venerable Archdeacon G. Exton Lloyd was elected Bishop of Saskatchewan in 1922. On the Festival of the Epiphany, 6th January 1924, he set apart St. John's as a Cathedral. In April, 1924, the Rev. Canon E. C. Earp, B.A. was inducted as Canon Residentiary, the work having been carried on very efficiently by Rev. W. S. Wickenden B.A. as *locum tenens* since the departure of Canon Smith. Canon Earp, a brilliant preacher and of



REV. CANON
E. C. EARP, B.A.
Canon Residentiary, 1924-1925

delightful personality, was much beloved by his people. Owing, however, to rather delicate health, he was obliged to resign in October, 1925. Rev. E. H. Maddocks B.D. carried on the work very acceptably until the appointment of Rev. Canon W. L. Armitage M.A. in February 1926.

Bishop Lloyd resigned in 1931 and Rt. Rev. W. T. Hallam D. D. was elected Bishop of Saskatchewan in July 1931. When the Diocese was divided Bishop Hallam became Bishop of Saskatoon on the 10th November 1932. At the first session of the Synod of Saskatoon held in St. John's Hall 21st of February 1933 Bishop Hallam announced the appointment of Canon Armitage as Dean and Rector of St. John's Cathedral and he was duly in-

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stalled by the Bishop on the following Sunday, 26th February 1933. Following this appointment Dean Armitage received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, Jure Dignitatis, from the University of Western Ontario, on the recommendation of his Alma Mater, Huron College, London, Ontario.

It is impossible in the space of the present work to give adequate recognition to the excellent service rendered to the parish by the large number of faithful workers who have given us of to-day such splendid fruits of their labours. We would gladly give tribute by name to every one of them. Of the large number who carried on through the vicissitudes of the past, giving generously of their substance and of their time, serving on Vestry, Committees and in Synod, we still have in office Mr. Adam Turner and Mr. A. H. Hanson, who are now Bishop's Wardens. Mr. W. J. Bell was one of the first Bishop's Wardens.

If the records had been available it would have been a great pleasure to have told of the important part played by the women of the congregation. From the buying of the first site on Third Avenue to the present time, the women have been most active and devoted. Unfortunately the early records of the Woman's Auxiliary have disappeared. There has been excellent work done by every organization.

During the incumbency of the present Rector, in addition to the Woman's Auxiliary and the Junior W. A., the Cubs, Scouts and Brownies and the Sunday School, which were doing good work, the A.Y.P.A. has been revived, an Evening Branch of the W. A. started in place of the former Girls' Branch and a new Girls' Branch of nearly fifty members organized. A new Boys' Choir has been started, the Chancel Guild re-organized, and three Prayer Circles of the Guild of Health started. There are also very healthy badminton and tennis clubs and a branch of the Church Boys' League.

For six years Mrs. Armitage has conducted a "Junior Congregation" in the Chapel during the time of the sermon in the Morning Services.

Gifts and Memorials

As yet we are not very rich in the number of memorials but we value very highly the gifts that have come to us.

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Vases—from Chancel Guild.

Candle Sticks—from Bishop Lloyd.

Communion Service—Two Chalices and two Patens.

One Chalice and Paten are in memory of Mrs. Ferguson by her son.

Flagon from Emmanuel College.

Brass Bookrests—one given by Mrs. James Straton, first president of the Chancel Guild, Christmas, 1911.

One given in memory of Mrs. Stanley Emerson by the Chancel Guild.

Silver Pix—In memory of Miss Eileen Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bell.

Alms Basin—"Presented to St. John's Church by the Catechists of the 1907 Party, in appreciation of many kindnesses. Rev. D. T. Davies, Rector."

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Bishop's Chair—Decorated with Mitre by Mr. A. H. Hanson. Prie-dieu added by friends of Bishop Hallam.

Bishops Wardens' Staff—by friends of Bishop Hallam.

Clergy Sedilia—by Mrs. C. Mead in memory of her Mother and Sister.

Sacristy Cupboard—by the Junior Auxiliary, 1925.

Font Cover—by the Sunday School.

Lectern Bible—by the North Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Bible Society, Easter 1924.

Altar Service Books—by Mrs. T. E. Heath and Mrs. R. J. Arthurs.

Clergy Prayer Books—in memory of Mr. Geo. Cocks, Sr.

Memorial Tablet—to the memory of Mr. Clinton Tully Falk, Organist and Choirmaster, by his Mother and Sisters.

Memorial Tablet—to the memory of Jack Cairns by St. John's Canuck Club.

Memorial Tablet—to the memory of those who enlisted for the Great War—by the Chancel Guild.

Memorial Window (North)—In Memory of Sidney S. Sterns. Killed at Passchendale, 30 October, 1917.

Memorial Window (South)—In Memory of Henry Butler Colthurst.

Memorial Window (South)—In Memory of Joseph William Jeffery.

Sidewalks—Mr. J. H. Hilton

Hymn Board—by the Sunday School

Much appreciated gifts of linen, markers and other articles for use in the Sanctuary have been given from time to time.

An Historic Prayer Desk

An object of historic interest is the small pulpit in the nave. Sir John Franklin was sent on a third expedition of discovery by the British Admiralty in 1844. It was glorious in its disaster and left behind it a tale that will never be forgotten while the annals of the British nation remain.

Sir John Richardson took command of the first relief expedition and came through to Cumberland, and it is to him that we are indebted for the furniture in Christ Church, The Pas. A church was in course of building in 1845-1847. Richardson sent down the ship's carpenters who made the pews, the pulpit, and the prayer desk. This prayer desk, mounted on a new base, has been loaned to the Cathedral at the request of Bishop Lloyd. It is used as a pulpit in the nave services of the Cathedral.

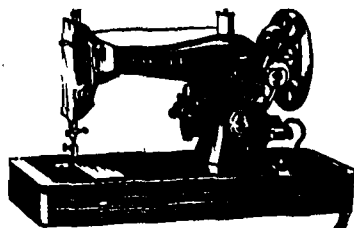
St. John's Cathedral Chancel Guild

By Miss Emma Bell, President, 1933-34

The history of St. John's Cathedral Chancel Guild is the simple story of the faithful services of the women of St. John's Parish. Theirs is the task of beautifying the House of the Lord for all Sundays and for all Festi-

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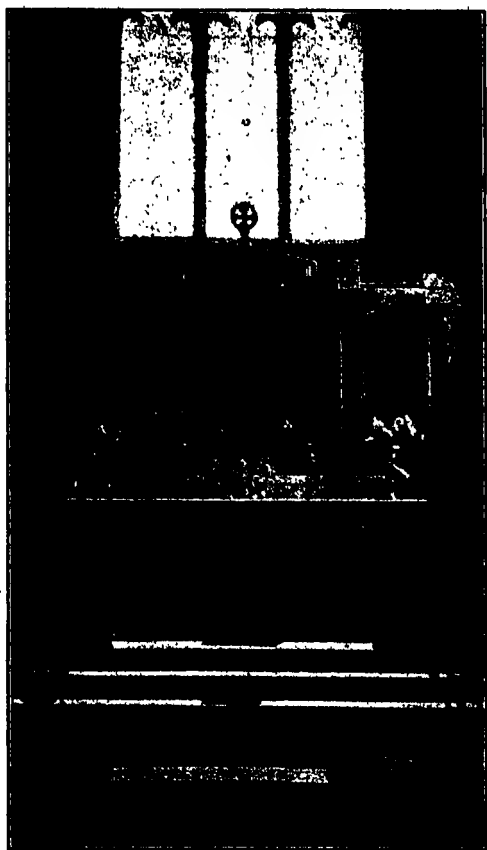
**

105 23th Street East

Phone 2474

vals. They assist in the preparation for the services of the Church, arrange the flowers upon the altar and prepare the vessels and linens for the celebration of Holy Communion. It is their joy to make the altar linens and provide suitable furnishings for the Font and the Sanctuary.

The early records of St. John's Cathedral Chancel Guild have been lost. Several beautiful gifts testify to the devotion of the first members of the Guild. One brass reading desk on the altar is inscribed as "Presented by Mrs. James Straton, first president of St. John's Chancel Guild, Christmas, 1911." The other was given by the Chancel Guild in memory of Mrs. Stanley Emerson.



THE HOLY TABLE

The first historical records of the activities of the Chancel Guild are found in the minute book dated 1921-1924. Here are the annals of splendid endeavour and of great achievement. The members of the Guild gave most generously of their time and money, and so the Guild purchased new altar linens, new surplices and cassocks for the choir, beautiful brass vases for the flowers and many other suitable adornments for the Church. In 1922 they erected a marble "Honor Roll" in memory of the men from St. John's Parish who served in the Great War, 1914-1918. With such accomplishments are associated the names of many well-known women of Saskatoon who served

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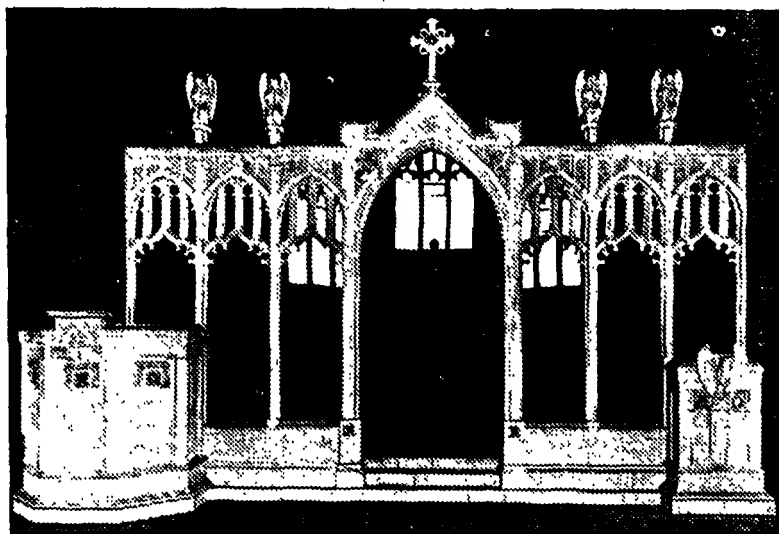
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under the leadership of Mrs. E. B. Smith, Mrs. C. D. Fisher, Mrs. Loucks, Mrs. A. J. E. Sumner and Mrs. S. E. Bushe.

These women threw the torch to others who have left no written record of their endeavours. The Chancel Guild was disbanded for a time and the work continued under the direction of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's. One recalls the names of several women who identified themselves with the work at this time—Mrs. E. C. Earp, Mrs. Crozier, Mrs. W. J. Bell, Miss L. C. Thompson, the late Miss M. C. Rowbottom, Mrs. W. H. Thompson and Mrs. Bedwell. During this time St. John's Primary Sunday School gave the cross for the altar in the Chapel where early Celebrations of Holy Communion are held and where the Junior Congregation assemblies for services. The Chapel Alms Basin and Collection Plates are the gift of Mrs. T. J. Carroll. The brass candle sticks which adorn the re-table of the Altar in the Cathedral are the gifts of the Rt. Rev. George Exton Lloyd, Bishop of Saskatchewan.

St. John's Cathedral Chancel Guild was re-organized in 1930 with Mrs. Roy Harding, President, and Mrs. Fred Cox, Mistress of the linens. The organization holds regular quarterly meetings at which the workers for the next period are appointed and the reports of the committees read. The mem-



Rood Screen, Pulpit and Lectern

bers have made several contributions towards the equipment, placed a stone shelf beneath the Honor Roll, and made a flower calendar on which are placed the names of those who subscribe for flowers for a special Sunday. The senior Sunday School donated the materials for new hassocks for the Font. Early in 1934 Dean Armitage dedicated a set of burse, veil and bookmarks in Navy blue. The materials were the gift of Bishop and Mrs. Hallam. It is by such generous gifts and the cooperation of the members of the Cathedral congregation that the work of St. John's Cathedral Chancel Guild is carried forward.

"Lord, I have loved the habitations of Thy house and the place where thine honor dwelleth."—Ps. XXVI 8.

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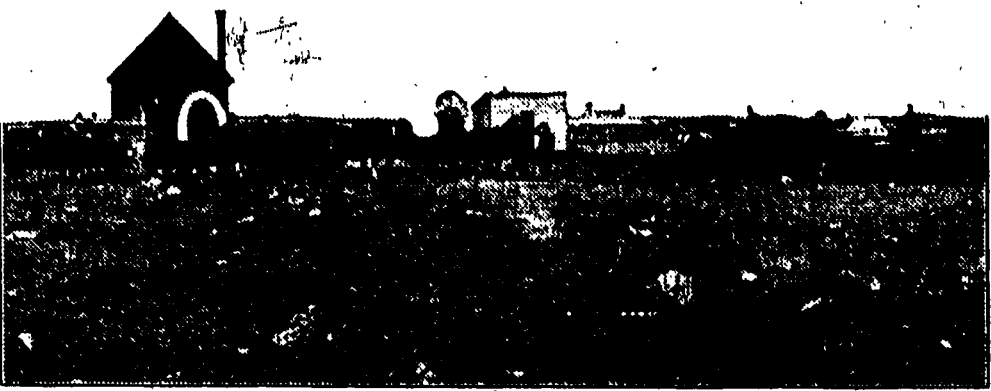
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The Sunday School

The work of the Sunday School, the most important work in the Church, has been carried on most faithfully by very devoted workers. The early records are not available but we do know that the first Superintendent was Mr. S. A. Clark, who laid a good foundation. Mr. Clark's name appears frequently in our early records of the Vestry and other departments of the Church. There has been here, as perhaps in every congregation, a difficulty in getting enough trained teachers. As it is admitted that Sunday School work is most important, why do not more of those who call themselves Christians, and who want to do something for the Master, train and study to do a work so worth while? We should not wait to be asked but should readily say "Here am I".

After Mr. Clark we do not know now who carried on. In minutes of the Vestry it is recorded that Canon Smith asked several times for someone to take the office. At the outbreak of the Great War Mr. C. Fox was the Superintendent. He went overseas in 1914 and was succeeded by Mr. G. F. Chambers who held the office until May, 1922. Rev. Canon Smith was Superintendent at intervals. In September, 1922, Mr. A. H. Brown took charge. He was succeeded by Mr. H. A. C. Crone in September, 1923. In November of that year Mr. H. W. Hewitt took up the work for a year, and was succeeded by Mr. C. L. Welch in November, 1924. Mr. Welch held office until January, 1933, when the office was taken over by Mr. L. M. Orge, the present Superintendent.

The School has always been well graded, and the Primary Department, the foundation of the work, has been organized on most up-to-date methods.

Miss Isobel Carroll is the first Superintendent of whom I can learn. She was at the head of this Department about 1914. In this year Mrs. A. A. Murphy took up the work and perfected the organization. I can say this, that after many years in the Ministry, I have not known a better organized Primary than we have in St. John's. For this we are indebted to Mrs. Murphy and her excellent staff. Other schools may have better facilities, but they are not doing more efficient work than this splendid band of officers and teachers. During Mrs. Murphy's temporary absences, her place was

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taken by Miss Isobel Carroll and Mrs. A. C. Raymond. During the session of September, 1933, to the present, Miss Emma Bell has carried on as Superintendent with excellent results.

The office of Secretary of the whole School is very important. The only Secretary of whom I have record up to 1919, was Mr. E. Holman. In that year Miss Eva A. Young was appointed and in 1922 the office of Treasurer was added to her work. Much of the success of the whole School is attributable to the constant attendance and accurate efficiency of Miss Young.

The Sunday School gave to the Cathedral the Hymn Board over the Lectern in 1917 and the beautiful cover for the Font in 1924. The Primary Department gave the Cross in the Chapel.



The Boy Scouts

Just recently I learned that Mr. R. M. Thompson, Architect, Assistant District Commissioner of Scouts, who is still a constant worshipper in the Cathedral, was the first Scout Master of St. John's Troup. I asked him to give us a few words on the beginnings of our Scouts and he has sent in the following:—

Regarding your request I should give a short outline of the St. John's Boy Scout Troop at its inception, I herewith send you what information I have collected.

I find that the members of the Anglican Church have always taken a prominent position in the movement in Saskatoon, so that I have, in addition to giving you facts about St. John's Troop, sent you a few details about the main organization.

In July, 1910 at the request of Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby (St. John's), J. F. Cairns, (3rd Ave. Methodist) and Geo. McCraney, M.P. (Knox), Capt. J. K. Keefer was invited from Toronto to Saskatoon to start the Boy Scout movement in this city.

Captain Keefer was then a Captain in the Governor General's Body Guard, held a Warrant from Sir Baden-Powell as an Assistant Scout Commissioner, and was Secretary of the Toronto Scout Council.

On Captain Keefer's arrival in Saskatoon, a meeting was held in the St. John's Church Hall, then on the east side of 3rd Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets. At this meeting a Scout Council was formed consisting of Dr. Willoughby (St. John's), F. F. Cairns (3rd. Ave. Meth.), Geo. McCraney, (Knox), Hugh Aird (St. John's), Adam Turner (St. John's) and (I think) also W. J. Bell (St. John's).

Application was made to Scout Headquarters, London, England, for registration of its jurisdiction to extend over Northern Saskatchewan. This was granted and at the same time Captain Keefer was appointed Scout Commissioner.

As this is all I intend to tell you about the organization of the body as a whole, I may here state that Captain Keefer held this position until 1913, when he was appointed to the Cadet Services.

Captain Keefer has been in the Cadet Service from then, except during

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the time he was overseas, and only retired recently, holding the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

The Troops organized then were Christ Church, St. John's, Knox Church, St. Thomas and St. James.

I was appointed Scoutmaster for St. John's Troop 1910 and held this position until 1912 when it was taken over by W. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell carried on until the outbreak of the war.

As everyone was entirely new to the movement with the exception of Captain Keefler, we had to carry on as best we could and with the aid of "Scouting for Boys" managed to get along all right. The same helpful spirit which is so common in Saskatoon was even more in evidence in those days and I had no difficulty in getting all the help I desired. Dr. Andrew Croll (St. John's) used to give the boys lectures on Ambulance work. Ed. Richard (St. John's), now dead, as an old sailor taught the boys knots and lashings. Horace Beavis (St. John's) acted for a time as Assistant Scoutmaster. Peter Ower (Knox) taught the boys signalling and Bert Lancaster (St. John's) instructed them in bridge building.

Canon E. B. Smith used to look in very often and we were all one happy family.

There were many amusing incidents but I will only tell you of one. Arthur Lloyd, who was killed in France, a boy of about fifteen, son of Bishop Lloyd, with the help of Hilliard Willoughby was running a troop at St. James and asked permission for a few of the St. James boys to attend Dr. Croll's Ambulance Lectures. The boys duly arrived and the lecture was being given when Arthur Lloyd toppled over on the floor in a faint. Dr. Croll grabbed his feet, held them in the air, and continued his lecture explaining what should be done when a man fainted. In a few minutes Arthur recovered and getting on his feet looked round about in an apologetic manner and was greeted with a Ha! Ha! from one of the boys. This was too much for Arthur; it took all the authority the Scoutmaster had to prevent a fight. The boys were a fine healthy bunch always up to some mischief and I once assured them they were the nearest approach to the boys in Scotland I knew as a lad, and now could understand why Ian MacLaren, when writing of the boys of Scotland, described them as "Young Barbarians". I do not know of one boy in the Troop who went wrong.

From memory I am giving you a partial list of the boys who were in the first St. John's troop, and strange to say, I find that everyone went overseas.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| W. Mitchell, S. M. | |
| Horace Beavis, A. S. M. | |
| Douglas Aird | Killed Overseas |
| Eric Bartlett | Killed Overseas |
| Norman Falkner | |
| Ridgeway Gilpin | |
| James Marlow | |
| Bert March | Killed Overseas |
| Chas. Rhoden | |
| Harry Rhoden | |
| Frank Roy | |
| Geo. Rippengale | Killed Overseas |
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The information I can give you is very meagre, but a History of the Boy Scout Movement in Saskatoon is being prepared by Ross Brown, Bursar's Department, University of Saskatchewan, so I trust if you can give any publicity to the St. John's memoirs you will ask anyone who possesses information of the movement to kindly communicate it to Mr. Brown

Yours faithfully,

R.M. Thompson

Assistant Commissioner



MR. ADAM TURNER, *Bishop's Warden*, and MRS. TURNER
Members of St. John's since 1903.

—Photo at Golden Wedding, 1933.



MR. A. H. HANSON
*Bishop's Warden and Lay De-
legate to Synod. A member
since 1905*

Brief History of St. John's Cathedral Choir

January 18th, 1903—January, 1934

FOREWORD

It is not the purpose of this short historical sketch to portray in detail the difficulties and aspirations of the organization now known as "St. John's Cathedral Choir" but rather to outline briefly and as faithfully as possible some of the work actually accomplished since its creation. Owing to the destruction by fire of certain valuable records of the Church, much of the authentic history of the Choir is not available but enough is known to allow a fairly accurate outline.

It is the fervent hope that those following will preserve this booklet and add to its historical setting from time to time.—F. Hayes.

On January 18th, 1903, Miss M. MacKay, daughter of the late Ven. Archd. MacKay, was the first Organist, and Mr. T. Sales, M.P., the first Choirmaster.

No available information is known as to the size of the Choir or the capabilities of Mr. Sales as a Choirmaster, but it may be assumed that his work lay chiefly in training the Choir to lead the simple Services obtaining at that time. He was followed by Mrs. Herbert Acheson and she in 1904 by Mr. C. T. Falkner, whose name appears on the brass plate affixed to the north side of the Chancel. Death removed Mr. Falkner in 1908.

Under the baton of Mrs. Allen, the next organist, an English lady of fine musical and dramatic ability, the Choir increased in membership and improved in musical texture. During her regime in 1908 St. John's Choir earned the unique record of having given the first light operatic performance in Saskatoon, namely, *H. M. S. Pinafore*, in what was then known as the "Lyric Theatre". In 1909 the players delighted the public with *Pirates of Penzance*. At this time their fame as entertainers reached Regina and an arrangement was made for them to give an entertainment there. This so pleased their audience that a public reception was tendered the players by the Mayor and City Council of Regina. When the Empire Theatre was opened in Saskatoon, St. John's Choir, under the name of "The Saskatoon Amateur Operatic Society" again rendered "Pinafore".

After a period of faithfulness and success as a Choir Leader, the Choir reluctantly bade farewell to Mrs. Allen, who left for Vancouver.

To Mrs. E. B. Smith, organist and charming wife of the Rev. Canon Ernest B. Smith, who had been Rector since 1907, fell the task of holding the Choir together for a period. Her duty she performed faithfully until taken over during the year 1909 by Mr. W. R. Lowe, a Yorkshire man, also a student of Dr. Coward, Conductor of the famous Sheffield Choir.

Mr. Lowe was a brilliant pianist and organist and a polished gentleman withal, though at times extremely haughty. He possessed a tenor voice of fine quality, by means of which he studiously taught his Choir the art of voice production. He had a profound breadth of musical knowledge and vision and as a practiced musician he stood head and shoulders above any known musician in Saskatchewan at that time. He it was who took his Choir to the Prince Albert Festival in May, 1911, and while standing in the wings of the small theatre, allowed his Choir to sing Gounod's "*Send out Thy Light*" unaccompanied and without a conductor. The work of the Choir was highly commended by Dr. Perrin, at that time the Adjudicator, but it was disqualified simply because, rightly or wrongly, the contralto section included three male altos, one of whom was the writer.

In the year 1911 Mr. Lowe had the pleasure of meeting again Dr. Coward, the distinguished musician, his old music master, at Saskatoon, during a world tour of the Sheffield Choir, and on that occasion Dr. Coward graciously paid him a tribute by allowing him to act as his sole accompanist during the memorable concert held at Saskatoon.

Mr. Lowe's passion for *pianissimos* proved in some cases an obstacle to continued success as far as individual choristers was concerned for at times it proved irksome, resulting in poor rendition, due to over anxiety and nervousness on the part of the Choir members generally.

Numerous complete works were rendered with success under the baton of Mr. Lowe, including "*Hymn of Praise*", "*The Last Judgment*", "*Daughter of Jairus*", "*The Creation*", Stainer's "*Crucifixion*", excerpts from "*Elijah*" and several musical scores of similar calibre.

The first Boys' Choir was established during the years 1911 and 1912 by Mr. Lowe with only moderate success.

On the 12th of September, 1912, the foundation stone of the Cathedral was laid by the Duke of Connaught. It may be of passing interest to know that after the ceremony, at which the Choir sang the 122nd Psalm, while passing Mr. Lowe, who presided at a very small organ, the Duke stopped and touching him on the shoulder kindly said, "Wonderful music with the opportunity you have."

To Mr. Lowe also goes the credit of organizing the first Male Chorus in Saskatoon, known as the Y. M. C. A. Glee and Madrigal Society. They captured the shield still used at current Festivals.

Mr. Lowe severed his connection with St. John's during the year 1913, much to the general regret of the Choir and members of the Congregation.

A Mr. Gurney was in charge as Organist and Choirmaster for a short time. He was followed by Mr. Darby, a gentleman from Eastern Canada, a capable organist possessing good technical and musical knowledge. Mr. Darby exhibited much enthusiasm and enterprise which reflected in everything he attempted. He took a great interest in the Boys' Choir which he not only held together but increased its personnel. It is only fair to say, however, that at that time the musical side of a child's education, especially boys, received no attention by Public School authorities, as has been the case for several years past, consequently Mr. Darby was apparently unable to



MR. FRED HAYES
*Senior Member of the Choir,
having joined in 1911*

achieve what was nearest his heart. With the musical standards bequeathed by Mr. Lowe, Mr. Darby found it difficult to hold the Choir together. He relinquished his position in the early part of 1915.

Canon Ernest B. Smith, the Rector, for a time filled in as Choirmaster until the arrival in the Fall of 1915 of Mr. Spencer, a genial Englishman who next acted as Organist and Choirmaster.

Mr. Spencer evinced a good grasp of choral breadth and imagination but owing to the small size of his choir, the work he attempted was often disappointing. Perhaps the writer might be pardoned for stating that it was on Good Friday, 1916, under Mr. Spencer's direction, he made his debut on this side of the Atlantic as soloist during the successful rendering of Sir John Stainer's *Crucifixion*.

In order to devote more time to business interests, Mr. Spencer resigned his position as Choirmaster in September, 1916, to be followed immediately by Mr. Harold Whittaker, an Englishman, who at present is the honored Secretary of the northern half of the Saskatchewan Musical Festival. It may be stated that Mr. Whittaker stepped from the ranks of the Choir as Baritone Soloist and, without previous experience, assumed the role of Choirmaster with great credit. This position he held from the 19th of September, 1916 until June, 1918. During his term such works as the "*Way-side Cross*" and "*The Crucifixion*" were rendered with good effect and a better feeling throughout the Choir existed.

It may be of interest to learn that it was during Mr. Whittaker's term that the Choir in April, 1917, originally organized, electing for its first President Mr. Fred Hayes, who was privileged to compile the first constitution and organize the various committees.

In October, 1917, Mr. Whittaker conducted the first services held in the new Church, now the Cathedral. Again to Mr. Fred Hayes fell the privilege of singing the first solo ever sung in the new Church; namely, "*Seek Ye the Lord*" by Varly Roberts.

Mr. Whittaker, who had simply held the position of Choirmaster until another was appointed, relinquished his charge in June, 1918.

Following Mr. Whittaker, Mr. Geary, an Irishman, took charge and for a time managed to prevent the Choir from disintegrating, but his stay was very brief for it was not long before he was followed by Mr. Parry, a Welshman of great choral ability, he having to his credit several medals and other trophies won at various Musical Festivals in Great Britain. He was unfortunately hampered by his inability to speak English sufficiently for his Choir to understand him and although his son, also a member of the Choir, acted as interpreter, that arrangement did not prove successful. It was sometimes pathetic to note his disappointment when striving for musical effects he was unable to obtain. While his merit as a musician was understood by all, his services were reluctantly dispensed with for the above-mentioned reason.

Shortly after he had left St. John's, Mr. Parry and his devoted wife received word of the death of their only son while he was crossing the Atlantic during the war period, which sorrow was shared by all who knew them.

Next in line followed Mr. Preston, another Englishman worthy of note as a musician, possessing a fine tenor voice and a good technical knowledge of music. He succeeded in raising somewhat the musical calibre and interest of the Choir and during his charge much good music long placed in discard, again saw the light of day and was rendered with good effect.

Before his connection with St. John's Choir, Mr. Wm. Preston was responsible for the first complete production in Saskatoon of Handel's "*Messiah*", when he conducted on the 3rd and 4th of December, 1913, with success, what was known as the Saskatoon Oratorio Society in the Third Avenue Methodist Church; principals, Soprano, Miss Beatrice Overton; Contralto, Mrs. G. M. Counsell; Tenor, Mr. Norman Douglas; Bass, Mr. W. Davidson Thomson, being supported by Miss L. A. Phillips, Pianist, Mr. Fred M. Gee, organist, and Mr. H. Sagar, with full orchestra.

Although Mr. Preston apparently did his best for various reasons he resigned in the fall of 1919, giving place to Mrs. Vernon Graham, a charming English lady of pleasing personality.

Mrs. Graham was a good soprano and pianist and consequently she appeared to confine most of her attention to solo work and simple anthems. Under her baton the Choir maintained somewhat the position reached under Mr. Preston's leadership, which work she continued until the arrival of Mr. W. Seemer Betts, our present and much esteemed Choirmaster, who took charge on the 2nd of May, 1920. Here it may be mentioned that during the time between 1914 and 1920, which included the war period, conditions in the Choir for various reasons were very trying, and it was only due to the encouragement and inspiration received from Mrs. E. B. Smith, the Rector's devoted wife, that the Choir managed to continue as such. On the 30th of September, 1923, after sixteen years of consecrated service, Canon and Mrs. E. B. Smith bade farewell to St. John's, and left to continue their work in Bellingham, Wash., U. S. A., much to the regret of the congregation, of the public at large, and especially of the Choir with which Mrs. Smith was so closely identified.

Mr. R. F. Taunt, a valued member of the Choir, took over the duties of Organist until March 31st, 1924, at which time he was followed by Mr. Vick Smith of Emmanuel College, who relinquished the position when it was taken over by Allan Johnson in May 1924. This position, excepting for a few months, has been successfully filled up to the present by Mr. Johnson. It may be stated, which is a happy circumstance, that the Clergy in charge in the past, and also our present Rector, the Very Reverent Dean W. L. Armitage, have co-operated as far as possible with the Choirmasters.



MR. W. SEEMER BETTS
Choirmaster since 1920.



MR. ALLAN JOHNSON
Organist since May, 1924

With the advent of Mr. Betts, a new era dawned in the life and history of St. John's Choir. Before dealing with his work on this side of the Atlantic, it would not be amiss to pause and learn a little about him. The following is taken from an article appearing in "The Musical Herald", London, England, in the early spring of 1920:

"Mr. W. Seemer Betts has gone to Canada to take up a musical appointment there, and for domestic reasons as well. Remarkable demonstra-

tions of friendship have been shown to him prior to his departure. He frequently adjudicated and was well known as a baritone vocalist. Mr. Betts was a class-singing teacher and Sunday service Choirmaster at the Regent Street Polytechnic. He was similarly engaged at Stormont Road Congregational Church, Lavendar Hill. Until war broke out he was Crystal Palace conductor for the National Temperance Choral Union. He also conducted the London Gleemen. He was on the committee of the Tonic Sol-fa Association. On whatever work he engaged, his services were retained for long periods. The farewells of all these bodies were demonstrations of regard and affection that will be a lifelong memory to the recipient of the numerous testimonials presented."

In addition to the above, the editor in writing personally to Canon Smith says, "Mr. Betts was for three years professor in the art of conducting, at the Tonic Sol-fa College. For nine years he conducted choirs of five thousand voices at the Crystal Palace and he also has given choral performances in Queen's Hall, London. He trained as a baritone under the celebrated Garcia and has sung in the above places and in other prominent halls in England."

About this period, while not so strong as in later years, St. John's Choir began to make itself felt in the community. For the first time since the departure of Mr. Lowe it was decided to enter the Saskatchewan Musical Festival to be held at Prince Albert in May, 1923.

With a view to raising funds to defray the expense of taking the choir to the Combined Musical Festival, it was decided to produce the tuneful Operetta "*Sherwood's Queen*", by T. Mee. Under the joint management of Mr. Betts as Musical Director, and Mr. George Simpson as Stage Manager, this resulted in many successful performances, not only in St. John's Parish Hall, but in other church halls in the city, thereby adding new distinction to the record of past Amateur Dramatic performances, and demonstrating that St. John's players were still capable, as in earlier years, of pleasing the public. Following this production the choir worked hard and twenty-eight voices went to Prince Albert where they rendered the Class B Test pieces—"Magnify His Name" and "*Evening Brings Us Home*" in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of The Sacred Heart.

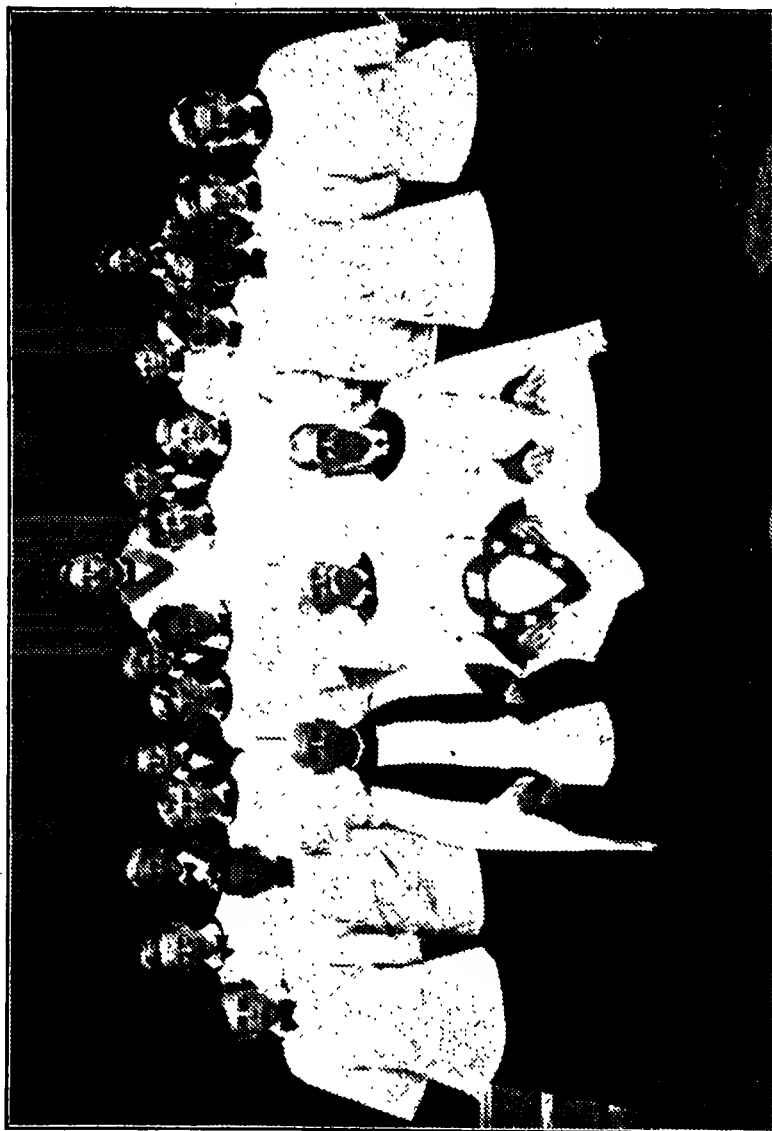
The Class B and the Grand Challenge shields were awarded to St. John's without hesitation. Granville Bantock, H. C. Perrin and H. Plunkett Greene were the adjudicators. It is unnecessary to say that this success brought new honour and prestige to the Choir. This proved the beginning of further successes of which mention will be made later. It also strengthened growing respect for the ability of Mr. Betts as a conductor.

The Choirmaster did not, however, confine his attention to making the Choir simply a musical organization, but repeatedly asserted a devout wish that first and foremost the objective of the Choir be to lead in the services and congregational devotions.

Following the success at Prince Albert, the Choir management co-operated with the Choirmaster in every way with a view to increasing membership. By dint of various social activities the Choir began gradually to assume the atmosphere of a large and happy family circle, which feeling has been steadily maintained.

After this date, owing to the cost of transportation to the various combined Festival centres, St. John's rested on its laurels, refraining from Festival work until the spring of 1926, when armed with his first Canadian Class

A Choir, Mr. Betts sallied forth for battle, but found he was the only Class A entrant in the northern half of the province. The Mayor of Prince Albert thanked the Choirmaster and the Choir for their sportiness in coming, knowing there was no local competition. Dr. Hugh Robertson, the adjudicator, praised highly the effective rendering of both pieces, and stated that the



ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL BOYS' CHOIR, 1932.

singing was the best he had heard in Canada during the Festivals, and awarded the high mark of 90 for each piece, which proved the highest marks in the province. Thus for the second time the Grand Challenge shield was brought to St. John's.

The spirit of musical rivalry did not, however, detract from friendly

co-operation in work with other choirs, and we find St. John's and Third Avenue Choirs working together in the rendering of the Hundredth Psalm and other scores, under the combined leadership of Mr. Betts and Mr. Francis Stevenson. Nor were the individual members backward in assisting where possible in any musical enterprise whether of a public or a private nature. Nor was this spirit of friendly assistance confined to local efforts, for on several occasions part, and in some cases almost all the Choir visited outlying points, giving pleasure and assistance where necessary.

It is worthy of note that on Good Friday, for the past 23 years consecutively, special services have been held, at which such works as Stainer's "*Crucifixion*", Maunder's "*Olivet to Calvary*", special Anthems, etc. were rendered. While given previously by St. John's Choir, the Passion Music from Handel's "*Messiah*" was successfully rendered for the first time with organ, piano and orchestral support on Good Friday, 1933.

The present Boys' Choir was formed in September, 1929, with an enrolment of 15 boys. Later this choir was incorporated with the regular choir. From raw material the boys responded well to the careful training of their conductor, and we find the Choir, in an incredibly short period, winning honors, including the Children's Choir shield in 1933, and in 1931, 1932 and 1933 the Kinsmen's shield for the Class A Boys' Choir. While in the Boys' Choir, and under the guidance of Mr. Betts, Master Douglas Hayes brought honor to St. John's by obtaining first place out of an entry of 24 contestants in the whole province for the Boy's Solo during the 1931 Festival.

It will be seen therefore, that from the year 1921, as a direct result of Festivals held at various large centres, the musical standard in Saskatchewan reached a high level, to which St. John's has contributed in no small measure. This fact was reflected in remarks made from time to time by prominent musicians from the Old Land while adjudicating here. The standard of efficiency among the leading contemporary church choirs and choral bodies in Saskatoon such as Third Avenue, Knox, Westminster, First Baptist, Grace, and the Philharmonic Society, is at present very high, and it is in this environment that St. John's Choir has demonstrated its position under the capable leadership of Mr. Betts. It would not be amiss here to repeat that the successful operation of St. John's Choir is directly due to the hard work and loyal support of each member of the Choir.

What the future will bring in the social and musical life of St. John's Cathedral Choir only time will tell. Suffice it to say that we look forward with confidence to a continuation of the musical prominence and the wonderful family spirit at present obtaining under the leadership of our esteemed conductor. While directly concerning the private life of the Choirmaster, it would be remiss were not mention made of the remarkable tribute paid to Mr. Betts on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, the 27th of January, 1934, when a most representative gathering of local musicians and others assembled in the Algerian Room, Saskatoon, at a banquet in his honour. On this occasion sincere birthday felicitations and expressions of goodwill were tendered by the Rt. Rev. W. T. Hallam, Bishop of Saskatoon, by the Very Rev. W. L. Armitage, Dean of St. John's Cathedral, by Professor A. Collingwood, Professor of Music at the University of Saskatchewan, and by others on behalf of the gathering.

At the regular practice of the choir on the Thursday previous, the President of the Choir, Mr. A. D. Thomson, presented Mr. Betts, on behalf of the choir, with a gift to mark their friendship and regard.

As a friendly gesture Mr. Arthur Collingwood, Professor of Music at

the University of Saskatchewan, has presented two valuable anthems of his own composition to the Choirmaster, namely, "*God Be Merciful Unto Us*" (*Deus*), and "*I Will Magnify Thee*". The *Deus* has already been rendered in the Cathedral but the last mentioned is reserved for some future date.

List of Original Members Forming The Boys' Choir in September, 1929

CONDUCTOR—W. SEEMER BETTS

Ray Butcher, Carl Courtenay, George Dowler, Jack Gloeckler, Jimmy Lumb, Billy Murphy, Ted. Schrader (*), Don. Woodley (*), Jack Braithwaite, Harry Dowler, Sam Frankling, Doug. Hayes, Ernest Little, Walter May (*), Ken Thorburn.

(*)—Still in the Choir.

Referring to recent history, an outstanding musical event took place in the Cathedral on Good Friday, March 30th, 1934, when the Choir effectively rendered the Passion music from Handel's "*Messiah*" under the direction of W Seemer Betts, assisted by Mr Allan Johnson, organist, Miss Evelyn Eby, pianist, and an orchestra led by Mr. L. Elvin.

The soloists on this occasion were, Mrs. E. W. de Laroque, Miss Esther Wright, Mr. W. Seemer Betts, Mr. F. Hayes, and Mr. Ernest Lowe.

During the singing of the two solos "Why Do the Nations" and "The Trumpet Shall Sound" by Mr. Betts, his son, Mr. Len Betts, wielded the baton effectively.

Boys at Present in the Choir, February, 1934.

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| J. Ball | A. Adams |
| R. Bolton | P. Blakely |
| H. Cook | E. Cheetham |
| R. Fleming | J. Drayton |
| W. May | O. Murphy |
| T. Sketcher | R. Newall |
| D. Woodley | T. Schrader |
| R. Woolhouse | E. Wright |

MEMBERS COMPRISING THE FIRST EXECUTIVE
OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR

April 1st, 1917

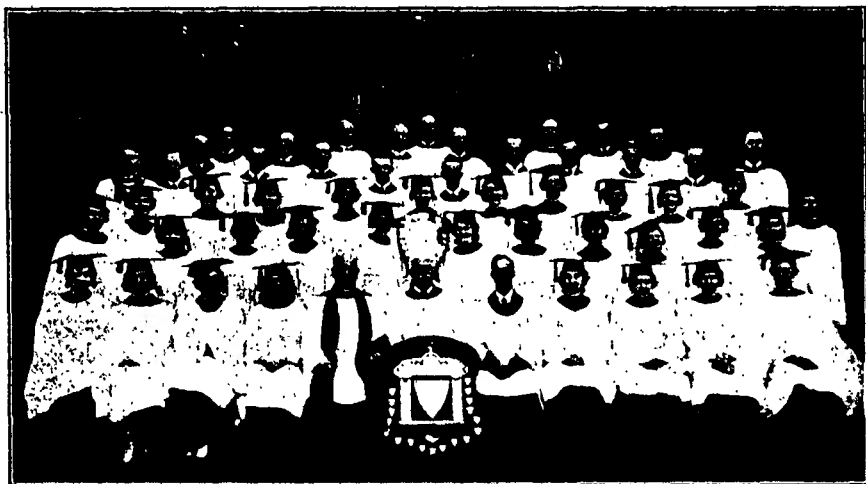
| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rev. Canon E. B. Smith | Rector |
| Mr. H. Whittaker | Choirmaster |
| Mrs. E. B. Smith | Organist |
| Mr. F. Hayes | President |
| Miss Pike | Vice-President |
| Mr. A. H. Browne | Secretary |
| Mr. J. N. Jordan | Treasurer |
| Mr. A. G. Ivens | Librarian |
| Mrs. Brown | Misc. Committee Convener |
| Miss Pike | Social Convener |
| Miss P. Pike | Visiting Committee Convener |
| Mrs. Halling | Wardrobe |
| Miss Bullock | Registrar |

MEMBERS OF THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR EXECUTIVE

January 1st, 1934

Very Rev. Dean Armitage
 Mr. F. Cocks
 Mr. A. D. Thomson
 Mr. O. T. Scarfe
 Miss M. Wright
 Miss S. Butcher
 Mrs. H. F. Nase
 Mr. W. C. Betts
 Mr. Allan Johnson
 Mr. W. F. Cox
 Mr. Len Betts
 Mrs. Harrison — B. Williams
 Mrs. Len Betts
 Mrs. Mabey
 Mr. Ernest Lowe

Rector
Hon. President
President
Secretary-Treasurer
Social Convener
Dues Secretary
Flower Secretary
Choirmaster
Organist
Librarian
Librarian
Robes
Robes
Registrar
Press Agent



MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

March, 1934

SOPRANOS

Mrs. Len Betts
 Miss Barnett
 Miss S. Butcher
 Miss Barrett
 Miss G. Chambers
 Miss Cheetham

Miss K. Jacobs
 Miss M. Johnson
 Mrs. Mawson
 Mrs. Mead
 Miss A. Pain
 Miss Pidcock

Miss Timperley
 Mrs. F. E. Winters
 Miss B. Williams
 Miss E. Wright
 Miss Witt

CONTRALTOS

Mrs. W. S. Betts
 Miss P. Betts
 Miss L. Barker
 Miss Barke

Mrs. E. W. de Laroque
 Mrs. F. Harrison
 Mrs. Laver
 Mrs. Mabey

Mrs. H. F. Nase
 Mrs. A. D. Thomson
 Miss M. Wright

TENORS

Mr. H. Bayley
Mr. J. Bolton
Mr. F. Hayes

Mr. F. Lowe
Mr. H. F. Nase
Mr. C. H. Riche

Mr. G. Timperley
Mr. F. Wood

BASSES

Mr. W. Seemer Betts
Mr. Len Betts
Mr. R. Butcher
Mr. J. Braithwaite
Mr. W. F. Cox

Mr. F. Cocks
Mr. Kains
Mr. E. W. de Laroque
Mr. Mead
Mr. Marriott

Mr. L. Orge
Mr. Rodwell
Mr. O. T. Scarfe
Mr. A. D. Thomson
Mr. Woolhouse

List of Honors Obtained by Individual Members and Choirs

Connected with St. John's Cathedral, 1903-1933

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Competitor</i> | <i>Class</i> | <i>Honor</i> |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 1911 | Mr. Archie Cocks | Baritone B. | Medal |
| 1912 | Mr. Archie Cocks | Baritone A | Medal |
| 1912 | Mr. R. J. Bridgeman | Tenor A | Medal |
| 1922 | Mr. F. Hayes | Tenor B | Certificate |
| 1923 | Mrs. Manningham | Soprano A | Medal and Shield |
| 1923 | St. John's Church Choir | Class B | Shield and Gr. Ch. Shield |
| 1926 | St. John's Church Choir | Class A | Shield and Gr. Ch. Shield |
| 1931 | Douglas Frank Hayes | Boy Soprano | Medal |
| 1931 | St. John's Church Choir | Class A | Shield |
| 1931 | Mr. E. Lowe | Tenor A | Medal |
| 1932 | St. John's Boys' Choir | Class A | Kinsmen's Shield |
| 1932 | St. John's Cathedral Choir | Class A | Shield and Gr. Challenge |
| 1933 | St. John's Boys' Choir | Class A | Shield (Children's and Kinsmen's Shield) |
| 1933 | St. John's Cathedral Choir | Class A | Shield |
| 1932 | Miss Esther Wright | Class A Soprano | Certificate |
| 1932 | Trio Miss Esther Wright Miss Mildred Wright Miss Mabel L'Ami | Class A | Medal |
| 1933 | Duet Miss Esther Wright Mr. H. Hay | Class A | Medal |
| 1933 | Douglas F. Hayes | Boys Solo | Certificate |
| 1933 | Master Bob Fleming | Boys' Solo | Certificate |

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